

Amendments to the Claims

1 to 29. (canceled).

30. (new) A polishing article for chemical-mechanical polishing a workpiece, comprising:

a substantially uniform mixture of a friable filler material, an abrasive, and a resinous binder throughout said polishing article; and

a polishing surface,

wherein said polishing article is constructed to cause said polishing surface to continually wear during polishing and thereby facilitate continuous exposure of the abrasive.

31. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, wherein said resinous binder comprises a heat curable resin compound having at least one epoxy group.

32. (new) The polishing article according to claim 31, wherein said filler material is included at a concentration that is greater by weight than that of said resin compound.

33. (new) The polishing article according to claim 32, wherein said resin compound is included at a concentration that is between about 5% and about 15% by weight of said filler material.

34. (new) The polishing article according to claim 31, wherein said resinous binder is a product of a reaction between said resin compound and an epoxy curing agent

35. (new) The polishing article according to claim 34, wherein said epoxy curing agent is included at a concentration that is between about 10% and about 30% by weight of the resin material.

36. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, wherein said friable material has a hardness less than 3 on the Mohs hardness scale.

37. (new) The polishing article according to claim 36, wherein the filler material is selected from the group consisting of talc, gypsum, and calcite.

38. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, wherein said polishing article has a thickness ranging between about 1 cm and about 3 cm.

39. (new) The polishing article according to claim 38, wherein said polishing article has a thickness greater than about 2 cm.

40. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, wherein a weight ratio of abrasive to filler material is between about 0.3 and about 0.7.

41. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, further comprising at least one optically transparent window adapted to allow for transmission of light through said polishing article.

42. (new) The polishing article according to claim 30, further comprising a plurality of grooves created in said polishing surface for transporting fluids over said polishing surface.

43. (new) A method for chemical mechanical planarization of a workpiece surface using a polishing apparatus comprising a platen and a fixed abrasive polishing article mounted on said platen, the method comprising the steps of:

polishing said workpiece surface using said fixed abrasive polishing article, said polishing article having a polishing surface, and comprising a substantially uniform mixture of a friable filler material, an abrasive, and a resinous binder; and

wearing away said polishing surface during said polishing step, and thereby continuously exposing said abrasive at said polishing surface.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein said resinous binder comprises a heat curable resin compound having at least one epoxy group.

45. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein said filler material is included at a concentration that is greater by weight than that of said resin compound.

46. (new) The method according to claim 45, wherein said resin compound is included at a concentration that is between about 5% and about 15% by weight of said filler material.

47. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein said resinous binder is a product of a reaction between said resin compound and an epoxy curing agent

48. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said epoxy curing agent is included at a concentration that is between about 10% and about 30% by weight of the resin material.

49. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein said friable material has a hardness less than 3 on the Mohs hardness scale.

50. (new) The method according to claim 49, wherein the filler material is selected from the group consisting of talc, gypsum, and calcite.

51. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein said polishing article has a thickness ranging between about 1 cm and about 3 cm.

52. (new) The method according to claim 51, wherein said polishing article has a thickness greater than about 2 cm.

53. (new) The method according to claim 43, wherein a weight ratio of abrasive to filler material is between about 0.3 and about 0.7.